

REMARKS

This application pertains to a novel pressure-sensitive adhesive.

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending; claim 2 being cancelled by this amendment.

The limitations of claim 2 have been added to claim 1.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Dunshee (US 2002/0165477) taken individually or in view of Stempel (US 5,492,943).

The Examiner acknowledges that Dunshee does not teach the use of a water swellable absorbent in an adhesive, but somehow concludes that the listing of "other additives" which can be used in a backing or in an adhesive would be read by those skilled in the art to mean that the swellable absorbent could be added to the adhesive. This view, of course, does violence to the meaning of the word "other".

The Examiner then, as an alternative, sees Stempel as teaching the use of hydrocolloids in adhesives which are to be attached to the skin. These, however, do not seem to be the type which are redetachable by extensive stretching.

Moreover, in a determined effort to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have now limited their claims to the use of superabsorbents as the swellable compound which is incorporated into the adhesive. Neither of the two references cited teach or suggest anything about superabsorbents.

In addition, Applicants have demonstrated unexpected advantages for their

adhesives. Those skilled in the art would expect that, since superabsorbents expand when they come into contact with water, they would swell in the adhesive. When this happens, those skilled in the art would expect that the swelling of the superabsorbents in the adhesives would result in a massive loss of adhesive force, and the adhesive would become detached from the substrate. Surprisingly and unexpectedly, Applicants have found that the opposite is true...the bond performance is significantly improved by the addition of the superabsorbers. See table 2, on page 16.

Applicants' claims cannot therefore in any way be seen as obvious over Dunshee, with or without Stempel, and the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Dunshee (US 2002/0165477) taken individually or in view of Stempel (US 5,492,943) should now be withdrawn.

In view of the present remarks it is believed that claims 1 and 3-9 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

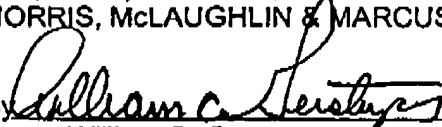
If any extension of time for this response is required, Appellants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to Deposit

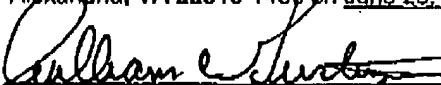
Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
transmitted via facsimile no. 571-273-8300
addressed to Mail Stop Amendment,
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 26, 2007


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Date June 26, 2007